REMARKS:

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-8 were rejected. Claims 1-3, 8 and 9 have been amended for clarification, and new claim 10 has been added. Thus, claims 1-10 are pending and under consideration. No new matter has been added. The rejections are traversed below.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) AND § 102(e):

Claims 1, 2 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,897,621 (Boesch), and claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,473,500 (Risafi).

The Examiner compares "a bearer bond" or "an electronic document" recited in independent claims 1, 2 and 8 with a customer account of Boesch. However, the bearer bond or electronic document of the present invention is unlike the customer account of Boesch because the customer and merchant accounts are linked or associated with identity of a particular customer and a particular merchant. In Boesch, a server maintains a customer account associated with a customer user and a merchant user (see, column 4, lines 10-17) to identify the customer and the merchant based on the stored information related to the customer and merchant (see, column 5, lines 53-65).

The present invention also provides an interactive electronic bearer document that is accessible by any user, and executes an electronic transaction using the interactive electronic bearer document as a form of payment. That is, the present invention does not associate any particular user in relation to the use of the bearer bond so that any user is able to access the bearer bond and execute a transaction.

As recited in amended independent claims 1, 2 and 8, the present invention uses a bearer bond or an electronic document "without linking the bearer bond [or electronic document] to identity of a specific user". This allows users to execute electronic transactions without the need to directly link the users' identity to the electronic transactions.

At page 5 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejects independent claim 9 based on Risafi. However, Risafi allows a card user to purchase a prepaid card issued by an issuer, such as a bank, and use the card to purchase goods and services. Similar to Boesch, the Risafi card is associated or linked with the purchaser or a particular user and cannot be used by anyone else (see, col. 7, lines 50-55 and col. 8, lines 43-52). That is, Risafi requires that

identity of a user be associated with the prepaid card so that only the identified user is able to use the prepaid card to execute a transaction (i.e., requires that the PIN associated with the card be verified).

Independent claim 9 as amended recites that the present invention includes, "issuing the interactive electronic bearer document that has monetary value and assigning verification information to the issued interactive electronic bearer document without linking the verification information to identity of a specific user".

It is submitted that the independent claims 1, 2, 8 and 9 are patentable over Risafi and Boesch.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

Claims 3-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boesch and Risafi.

The Examiner acknowledges that Boesch does not disclose executing the electronic transaction without requiring disclosure of information related to parties of the transaction, thus relies on Risafi as disclosing the same. However, Risafi requires verification of a PIN that is associated with a particular user (see, col. 7, lines 50-55 and col. 8, lines 43-52).

Independent claim 3 as amended recites, "selecting an item costing a first value in a first currency", "converting the first value in the first currency into a second value in a second currency" and "executing an electronic transaction by using the second value of the second currency as payment for the item without linking identity of parties to execute the electronic transaction".

The combination of Boesch and Risafi does not teach or suggest, "selecting an item costing a first value in a first currency", "converting the first value in the first currency into a second value in a second currency" and "executing an electronic transaction by using the second value of the second currency as payment for the item without linking identity of parties to execute the electronic transaction".

For at least the above-mentioned reasons, claims depending from independent claim 3 are patentably distinguishable over the combination of Boesch and Risafi. The dependent claims are also independently patentable. For example, as recited in claim 4, the universally accepted form of payment is not a credit card is not used as payment for the item, where an

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electronic transaction is executed "without linking identity of parties to execute the electronic transaction" (independent claim 3 upon which claim 4 depends).

NEW CLAIM:

New claim 10 is added to emphasize that the present invention provides an interactive electronic bearer document that is enabled to be "accessible by any user" to allow use of the electronic bearer document as a form of payment for an electronic transaction.

Applicants respectfully submit that new claim 10 is patentably distinguishable over the cited references.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.
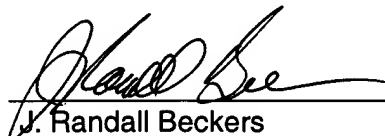
Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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